

Department of Medical Genetics

*Hopwood*

April 7, 1957

Dear Hilary:

We were pleased to have your notice about change of place-- we were wondering how long to 'keep a secret' that was becoming very well known. There is no need to repeat our earnest good wishes for you and enthusiasm for your mission, which is so close to our own perspectives.

Are you and Koprowska planning to move soon from Englewood, or will you commute for the time being?

We have been going through a period of chaos and indecision ourselves. All since our frank discussions on our living room carpet, we have had to weigh the most attractive offers from Stanford, Harvard and Berkeley, and then in relation to the developments in Medical Genetics here, which have been coming to a head more or less independently of the exogenous stimuli. At present, we have narrowed our views to Berkeley and Madison, and it will be some time before formal commitments are in order. In no case would we move before July 1958, and if we do go it might even be later than that.

Meanwhile, a Department of Medical Genetics has been formally organized here, and precisely along the lines of the discussion of our common interest, I am only sorry that the timing was inappropriate for the materialization of a program that might have tempted you: for example, the State Hygiene Laboratory will shortly have a vacant Directorship, and there is every reason that the splendid physical facilities should be devoted to a fundamental area of research. But these are just personal musings for the present. Our new department is in the stage of discovering its bearings -- one possible help is a symposium being planned for next April on the theme of general Medical Genetics, that is, what are the various areas of genetic research which are pertinent to medicine. (As you know, 'Medical Genetics' means a department of Genetics in a Medical School, and nothing more restrictive.) If the plans materialize, we hope you may be interested to visit Madison for it.

We suppose you will be too busy to follow through your former plan of spending a couple of weeks here this spring, but the welcome is here nevertheless.

To shift the scene, the long term prospects at Berkeley for an Institute program of mutual interest should not be discouraging either. We can't imagine that you will develop a fanatical attachment to Philadelphia as a place to live. So we must just wait to see what the future will bring.

In any case, all our best to both of you,

Joshua and Esther Lederberg